

**MONTANA STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
NURSING EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 23, 2002**

- Meeting:** April 23, 2002  
10:00 a.m.  
Department of Labor and Industry/Business Standards Division/Health Care  
Licensing Bureau  
301 South Park  
Helena MT 59601
- Members Present:** Gretchen McNeely RN Member, Chairperson  
Lorena Erickson, Public Member  
Sharon Dschaak LPN Member
- Staff Present:** Barbara Swehla, Executive Director
- Call to Order:** Gretchen McNeely RN, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00  
a.m. and declared a quorum present. Several guests were present. Sign up  
sheet is kept on file at the board office.
- Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 23, 2001, Nursing Education Committee meeting  
were reviewed and approved as amended upon a motion by Lorena  
Erickson, second by Gretchen McNeely and a unanimous vote.
- Agenda Adoption:** Gretchen McNeely reviewed the agenda and it was adopted by the  
committee.

**NCLEX Pass Rates – NCSBN Study Results:**

Gretchen McNeely, Chairperson, and Barbara Swehla, Executive Director, provided a summary of two recent research reports from NCSBN (National Council for State Boards of Nursing) regarding using NCLEX pass rates as an indicator for program quality. The study is not published and not available for distribution at this time. However, the results indicate the following:

**RN Programs of 21 or greater testers per year:** Annual pass rates of first time testers is a valid and reliable indicator of program quality.

**RN Programs of less than 21 testers per year:** Results of two consecutive years is a valid and reliable indicator of program quality with the pass rate being averaged (not consolidated).

**PN Programs of 15 or greater testers per year:** Annual pass rates of first time testers is a valid and reliable indicator of program quality.

**PN Programs of less than 15 testers per year:** Results of two consecutive years is a valid and reliable indicator of program quality with the pass rate being averaged (not consolidated).

The second study discussed, only briefly, related to results indicating that a graduate who takes NCLEX 6 months or less following authorization to test has a statistically significant greater chance of passing the NCLEX examination. These study results validate what has formerly been believed as a contributing factor to a tester's likelihood of passing the examination.

Results of both studies will be published soon and will be sent to all of the program directors when that occurs.

#### **NCLEX Education Plan: MSU Northern Graduate:**

The committee reviewed the plan submitted by the MSU Northern applicant, Melissa Taylor, who has failed NCLEX three times and needs an approved education plan to sit for a fourth time (her first examination was taken before the new limitation rules took effect).

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to "accept the self plan of study for preparation for NCLEX-RN for Melissa Taylor dated February 25, 2002 and authorization to sit for NCLEX-RN the 4<sup>th</sup> time after verification of completion of education plan". The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

#### **NCLEX Education Plan: MSU Northern Graduate:**

The committee reviewed the plan submitted by the MSU Northern applicant, Tara Benson, who has failed NCLEX two times and needs an approved education plan to sit for a third time.

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to "do not accept the education plan for Tara Benson. Direct the Executive Director of MSBON to request additional information on a specific plan of education for preparation to sit for NCLEX-RN". The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

#### **NCLEX Pass Rates:**

Lorena Erickson, Public Member moved to recommend to the full board to "Send a noticed letter to MSU-Northern because their passing rate for 1<sup>st</sup> time testers has fallen more than 10% below the national average on NCLEX-RN during the calendar year 2001." The motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

Rationale: Even though the proposed rule regarding NCLEX pass rates has not been adopted by the board, the full board had passed a motion in 2001 indicating a policy of notification of a program when NCLEX pass rates are more than 10% below the national average. Such a policy supports this action.

#### **Instructor Requirements by NLNAC for PN Programs and Potential Barriers for Obtaining NLNAC Accreditation:**

The issues facing some practical nursing programs were discussed in terms of recruitment and retention of qualified nursing faculty. While the board is proposing requiring national accreditation, some programs indicate a potential hardship. No decision was made due to lack of time and this agenda item will be on the July 2002 meeting agenda.

#### **Faculty Qualifications in Relation to Articulation/Transfer and Accreditation:**

The issues facing some baccalaureate nursing programs were discussed in terms of accepting nursing credits from nursing programs with nursing faculty who do not meet the baccalaureate requirements for qualifications. While the board does not currently have laws or rules pertaining to articulation, this has

been an issue for nursing education. No decision was made due to lack of time and this agenda item will be on the July 2002 meeting agenda.

#### **Board Jurisdiction Issues – Non Entry Level Program Expansions:**

The board wishes to address the impact on board-approved programs when the program adds another degree or other major program addition/change. While the board has official jurisdiction over the basic entry program, the board may have jurisdiction over expansions even though the program offering a new degree may require no board approval. No decision was made due to lack of time and this agenda item will be on the July 2002 meeting agenda.

#### **Preceptors in Non-Capstone Courses – Article for Discussion:**

Due to lack of time, this agenda item will be on the July 2002 meeting agenda. Prior to that meeting, the article will be distributed to nursing program directors for their review. This article was published in the Journal of Nursing Education, March 2001, "New Partnerships Between Education and Practice: Precepting Junior Students in the Acute Care Setting."

#### **Recommendations Regarding Faculty Qualifications, Program Changes and Special Reports:**

##### **MSU Bozeman Curriculum Changes:**

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board "accept curriculum changes for the BSN program Montana State University Bozeman College of Nursing dated April 2002." The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

##### **MSU Bozeman Special Report/Flathead Expansion:**

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to "accept the request for expansion of the upper division (Jr. & Senior level) at MSU Bozeman College of Nursing Missoula Campus to the Flathead Valley beginning January 2003." The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

##### **Miles Community College – Sociology Integration Follow Up Letter:**

Lorena Erickson, Public Member, moved to recommend to the full board "accept the report from Kathy Wankel, MCC dated March 25, 2002 explaining how sociology content will be integrated in the nursing courses." The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

##### **MSU Bozeman, MSU Northern, MSU College of Technology Great Falls – North Central Montana Collaborative Effort Report:**

This report was provided for informational purposes to indicate that the MSU nursing programs are working together to resolve clinical placement issues and program needs. The board thanked the programs for working this out and addressing important individual and collective program needs.

### **MSU-Northern Letter of Intent:**

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to “accept the letter of intent from MSU-Northern College of Nursing regarding expansion to a 3<sup>rd</sup> clinical section at the Havre campus.” The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

Dean Goudie was present to provide some explanations. More information will be presented to the board at the July 2002 meeting.

### **Salish-Kootenai College:**

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to “accept the minor changes in the nursing curriculum for Salish Kootenai College dated March 29, 2002. These changes have been made and were implemented in Fall of 2001.” The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

### **Butte – Montana Tech of the University of Montana:**

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to “accept the letter of intent from Butte-UM Montana Tech for the proposal of curriculum changes to the LPN and Associate Degree RN programs.” The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

### **UM Missoula COT:**

Lorena Erickson, Public Member, moved to recommend to the full board to “accept Missoula College of Technology letter of intent regarding proposed program changes from AAS degree back to LPN certificate.” The motion was passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

Note: The program is planning to take the request to the Board of Regents; it was a Board of Regents requirement to offer the AAS degree.

Sharon Dschaak, LPN Member, moved to recommend to the full board to “accept the letter of intent of University of Montana College of Technology Missoula for the LPN to Associate of Science RN degree program \*(New RN program from the COT – Letter dated March 29, 2002.” The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions from the vote or recusals.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next Education Committee meeting will be July 23, 2002. The meeting will be held in a conference room of the Federal/Department of Commerce Building 301 South Park, Helena (exact room to be announced – signs will be posted).

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Gretchen McNeely RN  
Chairperson